

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing graphic information present on mailpieces, whereby the graphic information is acquired, evaluated and stored, and whereby the acquired graphic information is used for physically sorting mailpieces, the method comprising:

~~characterized in that,~~

~~on the basis of a first result of the evaluation of~~ evaluating the graphic information to obtain a first result,

augmenting a database ~~is augmented by~~ with additional sorting features based on the first result,

~~whereby the~~ storing surface video data contained in the graphic information and/or storing a the statistical evaluation ~~are stored,~~

~~and whereby moreover, on the basis of the augmented database,~~ ascertaining a second result of the evaluation ~~is ascertained so that,~~

~~on the basis of the results of the evaluation, the graphic information of~~ sorting a first mailpiece on the basis of the second result ~~is sorted,~~

~~whereby this sorting of the graphic information of the first mailpiece triggers~~ triggering a physical sorting of a second mailpiece based on the graphical information of the first mailpiece,

~~and furthermore, in that another physical~~ physically sorting of the first mailpiece ~~resulting from~~ based on a reference code ~~is carried out.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
~~a determination of~~ determining if postage indicia are present on the mailpieces is
~~carried out.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
~~the evaluation of~~ evaluating the graphic information takes place via a data line at a
different point in time and/or at a different place than the point in time and/or the place of the
physical sorting of the first mailpiece based on ~~resulting from~~ the reference code.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
~~the evaluation of~~ evaluating the graphic information ~~of the mailpieces~~ comprises a
~~statistical evaluation of~~ statistically evaluating the graphic information ~~present on the~~
~~mailpieces.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
verifying the authenticity of sender franking ~~is verified in that~~ by comparing the
graphic information present on the mailpieces ~~is compared~~ to the graphic information
expected for ~~this~~ a particular mailpiece, whereby the expected graphic information
corresponds to a determination that preceded the comparison, and ~~moreover, the~~ registering a
postage indicium ~~is registered~~ as being forged if the graphic information ~~at hand~~ present
differs from the expected graphic information.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
verifying the authenticity of a digital postage indicium ~~is verified, whereby by~~
deciphering the encoded digital information contained in the graphic information is
~~deciphered and compared to the~~ comparing the encoded digital information to unencrypted
graphic information present on the appertaining mailpiece to ~~see if it~~ determine whether the
encoded digital information matches the unencrypted graphic information and, if ~~it~~ the
encoded digital information does not match the unencrypted graphic information, registering
the postage indicium ~~is registered~~ as being forged.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
generating a first hash value ~~is generated~~ from data contained in the graphic
information in order to check whether ~~this~~ the first hash value matches a second hash value
contained in the encoded information and, if ~~it~~ the first hash value does not match the second
hash value, registering the postage indicium ~~is registered~~ as being forged.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
forming the first hash value ~~is formed~~ taking into account information about mailpiece
data, taking into account a temporarily stored random number and taking into account a
loading procedure identification number.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
~~the evaluation of evaluating~~ the graphic information ~~of the mailpiece is carried out~~
according to one or more sorting features.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
the a time of day of a sorting event is a sorting feature ~~of the evaluation~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
~~another sorting feature of the evaluation is the~~ a date of a sorting event is a sorting
feature.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
~~another sorting feature of the evaluation is the~~ a starting time and/or the an ending
time of a sorting event is a sorting feature.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
~~another sorting feature of the evaluation is the~~ a specification of production machines
in a mail or freight distribution center is a sorting feature.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
~~another sorting feature is the~~ a value of the insufficient postage determined by means
of the evaluation is a sorting feature.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
~~another sorting feature is the~~ a Sender Franking Machine (SFM) AFM identification
determined by means of the evaluation is a sorting feature.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein
~~characterized in that~~
~~as another sorting feature, it is checked whether the AFM~~ SFM identification is being
readable is a sorting feature.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 15, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
~~as another sorting feature, it is checked~~ checking whether the determined AFM SFM
identification is present in a negative file.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 15, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
~~as another sorting feature, it is checked~~ checking whether the determined AFM SFM
identification is present in a positive file.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 15, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
~~as another sorting feature, it is checked~~ checking whether ~~this is a case of AFM the~~
SFM ~~has~~ insufficient postage.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 15, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
~~as another sorting feature, it is checked~~ checking whether the ~~AFM~~ SFM currency is
readable.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 15, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
~~as another sorting feature, it is checked~~ checking whether the ~~AFM~~ SFM postage
indiciu is readable.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 9, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
~~as another sorting feature, the~~ checking a date of a Personal Computer Franking PCF
("PCF date") is as a sorting feature ~~checked~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 9, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
~~as another sorting feature, it is checked~~ checking whether a Personal Computer
Franking PCF version ("PCF version") is present as a sorting feature.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 9, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
~~as another sorting feature, it is checked~~ checking whether Personal Computer
Franking PCF insufficient postage (“PCF insufficient postage”) is present as a sorting feature.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 9, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
~~as another sorting feature, it is checked~~ checking whether a determined Personal
Computer Franking PCF is present in a negative file (“PCF in negative file”) as a sorting
feature.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
storing data ~~of the~~ from automated checking of the postage ~~is stored~~.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising
~~characterized in that~~
storing results of the evaluation of graphic information ~~are stored~~ in a database.

28. (Currently Amended) A device for processing graphic information present on the surfaces of mailpieces comprising:

~~one or more~~ an image processing unit ~~units~~, whereby the image processing ~~units~~ ~~have~~ unit ~~has~~ a device ~~means~~ for acquiring, evaluating and storing the graphic information ~~of~~ ~~mailpieces~~, and ~~having~~ has at least one device ~~means~~ for recognizing different types of postage of the mailpieces, whereby the image processing ~~units~~ unit as well as the device ~~means~~ for recognizing the types of postage are in a data network,

~~characterized in that~~

wherein the data network is connected to at least one device ~~means~~ for performing a physical sorting of mailpieces, at least one device ~~means~~ for generating a reference code, and at least one device ~~means~~ for evaluating the graphic information, so that the at least one device ~~means~~ for evaluating the graphic information of a first mailpiece ascertains a first result of the evaluation, whereby the data network is also connected to a database that ~~has~~ been is augmented by ~~an additional~~ a sorting feature on the basis of the first result of the evaluation of the graphic information, for determining a second result of the evaluation, and ~~additionally~~, at least one device ~~means~~ for performing the physical sorting of a second mailpiece is activated, whereby ~~another~~ a second physical sorting of the first mailpiece is carried out on the basis of ~~the~~ a reference code.

29. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 28, wherein

~~characterized in that~~

the at least one device ~~means~~ for evaluating the graphic information of the mailpieces is located inside and/or outside of a mail distribution center.

30. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 28, wherein
~~characterized in that~~

the at least one device means for evaluating the graphic information of the mailpieces
has at least one input device ~~as well as~~ and at least one display device so that evaluation
results ~~as well as~~ and surface video data of the mailpieces are displayed to a user and edited
by the user employing the input device.

31. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 30, wherein
~~characterized in that~~

~~conventional~~ the at least one display device comprises analog and/or digital video
equipment ~~is used as display devices~~.

32. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 30, comprising
~~characterized in that~~

PC-based display devices ~~are used~~ that allow a filtering of the video data and ~~thus~~ a
detailed depiction of specific segments of the video data.

33. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 30, wherein
~~characterized in that~~

the at least one input devices device consist is selected from the group consisting of
PC keyboards, numerical keypads, barcode scanners ~~and/or~~ and a device means for speech
recognition.